

TRANSLATIONSPECIFICATION

JP2005 Rec'd PCT/PTO 30 MAY 2006

[Name of the Invention]

Substrate temperature measurement apparatus and processing apparatus

5 [Technical Field]

[0001]

This invention relates to a substrate temperature measurement apparatus for measuring the temperature of the substrate heated with the infrared ray or processed under plasma generating circumstance, and a processing apparatus provided with the

10 substrate temperature measurement apparatus

[Background of the Technique]

[0002]

For example, when a film is formed or ions are implanted onto a semiconductor wafer or glass substrate under the heated condition, it is necessary to measure the temperature of the substrate accurately to control the temperature of the substrate. Hereto thermocouple wires are used for measuring the temperature of substrate. For example, a chip is attached to top ends of two thermocouple wires as a temperature measurement contact point in the following patent document.:

Patent Document 1: JP58-28536B

20 [Disclosure of Invention]

[Problem to be solved by the Invention]

[0003]

The chip contacts with the substrate. Heat is transferred on to the chip from the substrate. The temperature of the substrate is measured under the heating condition of infrared ray. The chip absorbs the infrared ray and so the chip is heated up. Accordingly the temperature of substrate cannot be properly measured.

25

[0004]

Fig15 is graphs of time-temperature changes of substrate with a chip contacted with the substrate (dot-dash line) and with the measurement contact of the thermocouple wires directly connected to the substrate (solid line) without using chip.

30

The substrate to be measured is a silicon substrate covered, as whole, with SiO₂ which is supported by three supporting members. Chips are fixed onto the two of the supporting members. Accordingly, two dot-dash lines are shown in the graph for the two chips, respectively. AlN is used as material of chip which has high thermal conductivity and high heat resistance.

[0005]

Infrared ray passes through the silicon substrate covered with SiO₂. The chip absorbs the infrared ray. Accordingly, the temperature measured by the chip (dot-dash line) is higher than the actual temperature of the substrate (solid line) as shown in Fig 15.

[0006]

In the above patent document, a chip and thermocouple wires are put in a protecting pipe, the top end of the pipe is heated and melted to unite the chip and top ends of thermocouple wires each other. Thermocouple wires are heated and oxidized. They become fragile. When they have fine diameter, there is the fear that they are wire-cut. When the thermocouple wires has large diameter, much heat is consumed by the thermocouple wires. Further, the heating and melting process takes much cost.

Also in the case that the substrate is processed under the plasma generating condition, controlling the temperature of the substrate, there are the same problems as the above. Electro-magnetic wave from the plasma does not make the temperature of the substrate measure accurately.

[0007]

This invention has been made in consideration of the above mentioned problems. The object is to provide a substrate temperature measurement apparatus and a processing apparatus, whereby thermocouple wire reliability is improved, influence of infrared ray on the chip is reduced and the temperature of the substrate can be accurately measured

[Means for solving problem]

[0008]

The substrate temperature measurement apparatus of this invention is characterized in that it is provided with a chip made of metal reflecting infrared ray or electromagnetic wave, which has an inserting opening inserting thermocouple wires and is

crushed or deformed together with the thermocouple wires and contact with the substrate, and supporting member or members for supporting the chip, made of material of lower thermal conductivity than the chip.

[0009]

5 The processing apparatus of this invention is characterized in that it is provided with a processing chamber, in which a substrate to be temperature-measured, is arranged, a chip made of metal reflecting infrared ray or electromagnetic wave, which has an inserting opening inserting thermocouple wires, and is crushed together with the thermocouple wires and contact with the substrate, and supporting member or members for supporting
10 the chip made of material of lower thermal conductivity than the chip.

[0010]

 The heat of the substrate heated by the infrared ray or any other heating means is transmitted to the chip attached to the substrate and further transmitted to the thermocouple wires united with the chip to measure the temperature of the substrate.
15 Since the chip is made of metal, the heat transferred from the substrate is not suppressed. The temperature of the substrate can be measured with accuracy. The material of the chip reflects infrared ray and electromagnetic wave and it does not absorb them. Accordingly, the undesired temperature rise is suppressed. The temperature can be accurately measured in accordance with the heat transferred from the substrate.

20 [0011]

 Material of the supporting member supporting the chip has lower thermal conductivity than the chip. The thermal resistance between the chip and the supporting member is high. Accordingly, the heat can be prevented from being led toward the supporting members. Undesired decrease of the temperature of the substrate during processing is suppressed.

25 [0012]

 Since the chip and the thermocouple wires are united with each other by crushing and deforming the chip, the thermocouple wires can be protected from being oxidized and becoming fragile, and so being wire-cut. The lifetime is prolonged. Further, since heating process for the chip and thermocouple wires is not required, the cost can be reduced.

30 [Effect of the Invention]

[0013]

According to this invention, thermocouple wires are used high reliably. The chip united with the thermocouple wires reflects infrared ray and electromagnetic wave. Accordingly, the temperature of the chip changes accurately in accordance with the transferred heat from the substrate. Thus, the temperature of the substrate can be measured with accuracy. And so the temperature control means of the infrared ray heater can be controlled with accuracy. Thus, the quality of the substrate can be improved.

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[0014]

Fig.1 is a schematic view of a processing apparatus and a substrate temperature measurement apparatus according to a first embodiment of this invention.

Fig.2 is an enlarged perspective view of supporting members according to the first embodiment.

Fig.3 is an enlarged perspective view of an important portion in Fig.2.

Fig.4 is a schematic view of a processing apparatus and a substrate temperature measurement apparatus according to a second embodiment of this invention.

Fig.5 is a cross sectional view of an important part of a substrate temperature measurement apparatus according to a third embodiment of this invention.

Fig.6 is a cross sectional view of an important part of a substrate temperature measurement apparatus according to a fourth embodiment of this invention.

Fig.7 is a perspective view of an important part of a substrate temperature measurement apparatus according to a fifth embodiment of this invention.

Fig.8 is a cross sectional view of an important part of a substrate temperature measurement apparatus according to a sixth embodiment of this invention.

Fig.9 is a side view of the chip according to the first embodiment of this invention.

Fig.10 is a side view of a variation of a chip (No.1).

Fig.11 is a side view of a variation of a chip (No.2).

Fig.12 is a side view of a variation of a chip (No.3).

Fig.13 is a side view of a variation of a chip (No.4).

Fig.14 is graphs of time-temperature changes of the substrate with a substrate

temperature measurement apparatus (dot-dash line) according to the first embodiment of this invention and with the thermocouple wires directly connected to the substrate (solid line).

Fig.15 is graphs of time-temperature changes of substrate with a substrate temperature measurement apparatus according to the prior art (dot-dash line) and with the thermocouple wires directly connected to the substrate (solid line).

Fig.16 is a schematic view of a variation of the embodiment.

[Explanations of letters or numerals]

[0015]

- | | | |
|----|----------|---------------------|
| 10 | 10 | processing chamber |
| | 11 | infrared ray heater |
| | 13 | substrate |
| | 15a~15c | supporting member |
| | 16 | chip |
| 15 | 16a | inserting opening |
| | 20a, 20b | thermocouple wires |
| | 22 | supporting member |
| | 26 | supporting member |
| | 30 | chip |
| 20 | 31 | supporting member |
| | 32 | chip |
| | 33 | shaking means |
| | 39 | supporting member |
| | 35 | chip |
| 25 | 35a | inserting opening |
| | 36 | chip |
| | 36a | inserting opening |
| | 37 | chip |
| | 37a | inserting opening |
| 30 | 38 | chip |

38a, 38b inserting openings

[Best Embodiment of Invention]

[0016]

5 Next, embodiments of this invention will be described with reference to the drawings.

[0017] [First embodiment]

Fig.1 shows a processing apparatus and substrate temperature measurement apparatus according to a first embodiment of this invention. A quartz plate 12 is arranged above a processing chamber 10. An infrared ray heater 11 is arranged above the quartz plate 12. It is a halogen lamp irradiating infrared ray.

[0018]

A stage 14 is arranged in the processing chamber 10. Spaces 14a are formed in the stage 14 and they allow supporting members 15a, 15b and 15c to lift therethrough. The supporting member 15c is shown in Fig 2. The supporting members 15a, 15b and 15c are lifted in the thickness direction of the stage 14 by a lift cylinder 17 such as air cylinder.

[0019]

Fig.2 shows a perspective view of the supporting members 15a, 15b and 15c in this embodiment. They are three, and are connected together through a three-pronged connecting member 19 to a drive rod 17a of the lift cylinder 17. They are lifted as one unit. They are made of quartz material.

[0020]

Chips 16 united with thermocouple wires 20a and 20b are attached to top ends of the supporting members 15b and 15c as shown in Fig.3.

[0021]

25 Fig.9 shows a side view of the chip 16 which is to be united with the thermocouple wires 20a and 20b. It is cylindrical and hollow. The thermocouple wires 20a and 20b are inserted into the hollow through the inserting opening 16a. For example, the chip 16 is 1.2mm in outer diameter and 1.2mm in length. Inner diameter of the inserting opening 16a is equal to 0.3mm.

30 [0022]

Thermocouple wire 20a, for example, 0.127 thick in diameter is inserted into the one inserting opening 16a of the chip 16 and thermocouple wire 20b, for example, 0.127 thick in diameter is inserted into the other inserting opening 16a of the chip 16. Top ends 20aa and 20ba of the thermocouple wires 20a and 20b are projected out through the opposite inserting openings 16a as shown in Fig.3.

[0023]

The chip 16 is crushed and deformed by mechanical pressure so that the inserting openings 16a are closed. And it becomes hexahedron-like as shown in Fig.3. The corners are rounded. The thickness of the crushed chip 16 is equal to about 0.6mm to 0.7mm. Thus the chip 16 is united together with the thermocouple wires 20a and 20b which are connected to each other in the deformed hollow. A different metal of lower resistance may be interposed between the thermocouple wires because inducted electric power little changes by such interposed different metal. Thus, they always need not to be directly connected to each other.

[0024]

When the projected end portions of the thermocouple wires are too long, they are cut out to be short. The cutout end portion 20aa and 20ba are shown in Fig.3.

[0025]

The top surface of the chip 16 is flat and is to be contacted to the substrate 13. In Fig.3, the lower surface of the chip 16 is fixed to the top end of the supporting members 15b(15c) by adhesive.

[0026]

The thermocouple wires 20a and 20b are passed through holes 21 of the supporting members 15b(15c) and the interiors of the drive rod 17a and of lift cylinder 17 and any other feed through (a wiring path between vacuum and atmosphere) to a signal processing apparatus 18 arranged outside of the processing chamber 10.

[0027]

As above described, the substrate temperature measurement apparatus according to this embodiment is constituted by the chip 16, thermocouple wires 20a and 20b, supporting members 15a, 15b and 15c and signal processing apparatus 18.

[0028]

Next, there will be described operations of the processing apparatus and substrate temperature measurement apparatus according to this embodiment.

[0029]

- 5 The substrate 13 is supported by the three supporting members 15a, 15b and 15c in the processing chamber 10. The surface to be film-formed or ion-implanted is faced to the quartz plate 12. Infrared ray from the infrared ray heater 11 is radiated through the quartz plate 12 to the substrate 13 to be heated.

[0030]

- 10 The heat of the heated substrate 13 is transferred to the chip 16 connected to the back surface of the substrate 13 and further to the ends of the thermocouple wires 20a and 20b united with the chip 16. The ends of the thermocouple wires united with the chip 16 function as a temperature-measuring point. Signal according to the temperature of the temperature measuring point is supplied to the signal processing apparatus 18. The
15 measured temperature is displayed at a display portion of the signal processing apparatus 18.

[0031]

- The chip 16 is made, for example, of aluminum superior in the thermal conductivity. Thus, the temperature of the substrate 13 is accurately measured. Of course, any other
20 material superior in the thermal conductivity may be used as material of the chip 16. For example, the material of the thermal conductivity of higher than 100[W/m.k] is preferable.

[0032]

- The reflection rate of aluminum to infrared ray is higher than that of ceramics used normally as material of the prior chip. The temperature rise of chip 16 by absorption of
25 infrared ray can be decreased in contrast to the prior chip. As the result, the temperature of the substrate depending on the heat transmitted from the substrate 13 can be accurately measured with the substrate temperature measurement apparatus of this embodiment.

[0033]

- The supporting members 15a, 15b and 15c supporting the chip 16 are made of quartz
30 material of lower conductivity than that of the chip 16. Thus, thermal resistance between

the chip 16 and the supporting members 15a, 15b and 15c is raised. The transmission of heat to the supporting members 15a, 15b and 15c from the substrate 13 through the chip 16 can be suppressed much. As the result, undesired temperature lowering of the chip 16 and that of the substrate 13 during being heated can be suppressed. Further, since quartz
 5 is transparent to the infrared ray, the temperature rise of the supporting member 15a, 15b and 15c due to absorption of infrared ray can be suppressed. Accordingly, it is avoided that the temperature of the chip 16 is undesirably changed. The temperature of the substrate 13 can be accurately measured.

[0034]

10 Fig.14 is graphs of time-temperature changes of the substrate 13 (dot-dash line) with the substrate temperature measurement apparatus according to the first embodiment and (solid line) with the temperature measurement contact point of the thermocouple wires directly contacted with the substrate13. The substrate 13 is silicon wafer on which SiO₂ film is wholly formed. Two dot-dash lines (temperature change curves) show the measure
 15 temperature with the chip 16 supported on the supporting member15b and the measure temperature with the chip 16 supported on the supporting member15c, respectively. As understood from the result, the temperature nearer to the actual temperature of the substrate 13 can be measured by this embodiment in contrast to the prior art shown in Fig.15.

20 [0035]

The chip 16 is contacted with the back surface of the substrate13 opposite to the infrared ray heater 11. Also by such arrangement, the influence of the infrared ray can be reduced on the chip 16.

[0036]

25 The end portions of the thermocouple wires 20a and 20b as the temperature measuring contact point is united with the chip 16 by deform or crush of the latter without heating process at the normal temperature. Thus, it is avoided that the thermocouple wires 20a and 20b are oxidized and so becomes fragile with heating. Accordingly, there is little fear of break down of the thermocouple wires 20a and 20b and they can have long life. Further,
 30 since there is no heating process, the cost can be reduced. The mass of the crushed chip 16

does not change from that of the chip 16 before being crushed. The heat capacities of chips of the same material and the same size before being crushed are equal to each other. The responsibility of the chips to the substrate temperature is almost constant.

[0037]

- 5 Since the chip 16 contacts with the substrate 13, the material of the chip 16 is preferably softer than that of the substrate 13 so that the former does not damage the latter. In this embodiment, the chip 16 is made of aluminum which is softer than silicon or glass as the material of the substrate 13. Accordingly, it can be avoided that the chip 16 damages the substrate 13.

10 [0038]

- Since the chip 16 made of aluminum is soft, the contact surface area with the substrate 13 can be increased in comparison with the hard material such as ceramics. Accurately the temperature of the substrate 13 can be measured without varying. Particularly in some warp or some surface roughness, suitable contact area occasionally cannot be obtained. In
15 that case, the above softer material of the chip 16 is advantageous.

[0039]

- For example, Al, Cu, Pt, Au and Ag fulfill all the requirements on the thermal conductivity, infrared ray reflection rate, easy deformability at the normal temperature, hardness required for the chip 16. Al and Ag are preferable from the viewpoint of the
20 protection of the heavy metal contamination.

[0040]

- When aluminum is heated to 250. from the normal temperature, it has such life time that the chip of aluminum can endure the use of about 5000 to 10000 times. Such metal as Ag having higher heat resistance can give longer life.

25 [0041]

- The lifetime of the chip depends on the wear due to the contact with the substrate 13 besides the deterioration due to heat. Accordingly, longer life can be obtained by large sizing of the chip. However, heat capacity of the chip increases with the size. Responsibility to the change of the temperature of the substrate 13 is lowered with the capacity. When a
30 signal corresponding to the measured temperature is fed back to the infrared ray heater 11,

to control the heat temperature of the substrate 13, accurate temperature control cannot be effected with large heat capacity. Accordingly, it is not preferable that the chip is too much large sized. For example, it is preferable that the longest length of the shape of the chip is smaller than 2mm.

5 [0042] [First variation of the chip]

Fig.10 shows a chip 35 according to a first variation of the chip. It is cylindrical before being crushed or deformed as the chip 16 shown in Fig. 9. The outer diameter of the chip 35 is equal to 1.0mm which is smaller than that of the chip 16 according to the first embodiment. The top end of the chip 35 to be contacted with the substrate13 is far from the
10 inserting opening 35a by 0.4mm, while the bottom end of the chip 35 to be contacted with the supporting member is far from the inserting opening 35a by 0.3mm. Thus, the inserting opening 35a is shifted from the center of the chip 35. The inner diameter of the inserting opening 35a is equal to 0.3mm.

[0043]

15 With the above arrangement, the capacity of the chip 35 is not increased and so the responsibility to the temperature change of the substrate 13 is not lowered. However, the resistance to the wear, of the contacting portion between the substrate13 and the chip 35 can be raised.

[0044] [Second embodiment]

20 Fig.4 shows a processing apparatus and a substrate temperature measurement apparatus according to a second embodiment of this invention. Parts which correspond to those of the first embodiment are denoted by the same reference numerals, the detailed description will be omitted.

[0045]

25 In this embodiment, the chip 16 is supported on a plate-like supporting member 22. As shown in Fig.4, it is attached to the top end of the supporting member 22 or it may be attached to an upper surface facing to the substrate 13. The supporting member 22 is made of quartz material as the supporting members 15a, 15b and 15c of the first embodiment. The end of the supporting member 22 opposite to the one end of the supporting member 22
30 to which the chip 16 is attached is supported on a drive rod 23a of a lift cylinder 23 as

cantilever.

[0046]

The lift cylinder 23 can not only lift but also rotate. It can move up and down. Further, it can rotate around the axis of the drive rod 23a in Fig.4

5 [0047]

The top end of the supporting member 22 supporting the chip 16 is led between the substrate 13 and the stage 14, and the left side of the substrate 13 is lifted up. The substrate 13 is a little separated from the rod-like support member 15a. The chip 16 is contacted with the back surface of the substrate 13. Under the condition shown in Fig.4, the substrate 13 may be heated and its temperature may be measured. Or under the condition in which the substrate 13 may be positioned horizontally on the supporting member 15a by moving the drive rod 23a downwards. And the substrate 13 may be heated and its temperature may be measured. However, the contact area can be more stably secured in the condition shown in Fig.4, since some load of the substrate 13 is applied onto the chip 16.

[0048] [Third embodiment]

Fig.5 shows the third embodiment of this invention. A T-shaped supporting member 26 in cross section, made of quartz material, is supported through a coil spring 25 on a top end of a cylindrical supporting member 24. The chip 16 is fixed to the upper surface of the supporting member 26, for example, with adhesive.

The supporting member 24 is made of stainless. The coil spring 25 is wound around an axis portion 26b formed integrally with a head portion 26a of the supporting member 26. The axis portion 26b is cylindrical and its diameter is smaller than that of the head portion 26a. The coil spring 25 is supported on a top end of the supporting member 24. The upper end of the coil spring 25 contacts with the lower surface of the head portion 26a of the supporting member 26. The coil spring 25 constitutes pushing means of this embodiment.

[0049]

When the chip 16 contacts with the back surface of substrate 13 and some load of the substrate 13 is applied to the supporting member 26, the coil spring 25 is pressed down and the lower portion of the axis portion 26b is moved down in a hollow 24a of the supporting

member 24. The restoring force of the pressed coil spring 25 functions to push the chip 16 onto the substrate 13. And so the contact surface area of the chip 16 and substrate 13 can be increased. The temperature can be accurately measured without variation. That is effective or advantageous in the case that a stable contact area cannot be obtained due to some warp of the substrate 13 and surface roughness of the latter.

[0050] [Fourth embodiment]

Fig.6 shows the fourth embodiment of this invention. A T-shaped chip 30 in cross section is supported through a coil spring 43 on a top end of a cylindrical supporting member 31 made of quartz material. The chip 16 is made of any one of Al, Cu, Pt, Au and Ag. The coil spring 43 is wound around an axis portion 30b formed integrally with a head portion 30a of the chip 30. The axis portion 30b is cylindrical and its diameter is smaller than that of the head portion 30a. The coil spring 43 is supported on a top end of supporting member 31. The upper end of the coil spring 43 contacts with the lower surface of the head portion 30a of the chip 30. The coil spring 43 constitutes pushing means of this embodiment.

[0051]

When the chip 30 contacts with the back surface of substrate 13 and some load of the substrate 13 is applied to the chip 30, the coil spring 43 is pressed down and the lower portion of the axis portion 30b is moved down in a hollow 31a of the supporting member 31. The restoring force of the pressed coil spring 43 functions to push the chip 30 onto the substrate 13. And so the contact surface of the chip 30 and substrate 13 can be increased. The temperature can be accurately measured without variation. That is effective or advantageous in the case that a stable contact area cannot be obtained due to some warp of the substrate 13 and surface roughness of the latter.

[0052]

When the outer side of the chip 30 and 31 may be surrounded by a pipe made of stainless. In that case, they can be protected against any outer stress. Thus, it is avoided that unexpected force is applied to the chip 30.

[0053] [Fifth embodiment]

Fig.7 shows a fifth embodiment. A cylindrical chip 32 is supported through shaking means 33 on top end of the supporting member 15b made of quartz material. The chip 32 is

made of any one of Au, Ag, Cu, Pt. and Au as the first embodiment.

[0054]

The shaking means 33 is made, for example, of inconel. It consists of two rings 33a and 33b different from each other in diameter and three rods 33c connecting the two rings 33a and 33b. The ring 33a of the smaller diameter is fixed to a top end of the supporting member 15b and the ring 33b of the larger diameter is fixed to the chip 32, with adhesive.

[0055]

The rods 33c are elastically inclined and bended individually. Thus, the chip 32 can be shaken above the supporting member 15b. Even when the substrate 13 is somewhat warped, the contact surface between the chip 32 and the substrate 13 can be increased and so the temperature of the substrate 13 can be measured accurately.

[0056] [Sixth embodiment]

Fig.8 shows sixth embodiment. One pair of rollers 34a and 34b is used as pushing means to push the chip 16 to the substrate 13. The chip 16 is fixed to the top end of a rod-like supporting member 39 made of quartz. The supporting member 39 is movable upwards and downwards in the thickness direction of a bottom wall 42 of the processing chamber 10 and a substrate support mount 41. The supporting member 39 is pinched between the rollers 34a and 34b and is moved upwards with rotation of the rollers 34a and 34b. The chip 16 is pushed to the substrate 13. The chip 16 is contacted at a suitable contact pressure to the substrate 13 by torque control of a motor driving the rollers 34a and 34b.

[0057]

While the preferred embodiments of the Invention have been described, without limited to this, variations thereto will occur to those skilled in the art within the scope of the present inventive concepts that are delineated by the following claims.

[0058]

The material of the supporting member is not limited to quartz. Any other material of low heat conductivity such as ceramics may be used. The example of the low heat conductivity is polyimide resin and ZrO. However, their infrared-ray absorption rate is high. Accordingly, they should be arranged so that they are obstructed from the ray of the infrared heater by the chip. Reflective material for the infrared ray, such as aluminum,

TiN, Au may be coated on the surface of the above material.

[0059]

It is preferable in the embodiment of Fig.5 and Fig.6 that the coil spring is so strong that it is not too much shrunk by the weight of the substrate 13 and the chip does not contact
5 with the support member. The heat transfer between the chip and the support member is intercepted.

[0060]

The shape of the chip is not limited to cylinder. It may be rectangular as a chip 36 shown in Fig 11. Further, an inserting opening 36a may be square in side view. Or it may be
10 U-shaped as a chip 37 shown in Fig.12. The number of the inserting opening is not limited to one. It may be two as inserting openings 38a and 38b of a chip 38 shown in Fig. 13. Thermocouple wires 20a and 20b are inserted into the two, respectively.

[0061]

In the above embodiments, the spaces 14a are formed in the stage 14. The supporting
15 members 15a, 15b and 15c are lifted through the spaces 14a. The chip 16 is supported on the one of the supporting members 15a, 15b and 15c. Fig.16 shows a variation of the substrate temperature measurement apparatus of the above embodiment. Mounts 50 made of quartz material are fixed on the stage 14. The chips 16 are attached on the mounts 50. The thermocouple wires are led through spaces 14a' to the outside.

[0062]

In the above embodiments, the substrate 13 is heated by the infrared ray heater 11 as shown in Fig.1. When a film is formed on a bare silicon wafer as the substrate 13 under the measured and controlled temperature, by sputtering, plasma is generated above the substrate. Electromagnetic wave easily passes through the bare silicon wafer under the
25 plasma light and electromagnetic waves. Generally, it is difficult to measure accurately the temperature of the processed substrate in that case. The temperature of the substrate can be accurately measured without influence of plasma light, according to this invention.